

engaging a catch on a reagent container stopper with the plunger;
moving the reagent container stopper with the catch relative to the plunger
to at least partially open the stopper to enable liquid transfer via a pipette; and
closing the reagent container stopper.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the moving includes translating motion of a pipetting needle assembly to move the plunger.--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to place it in proper U.S. format, and to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors. Claims 1-6 have been canceled and rewritten as new claims 7-13 to provide claims in proper U.S. format.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Elizabeth M. Burk

Reg. No. 38,758

Dated: April 18, 2000

LAW OFFICES
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT
& DUNNER, L. L. P.
1300 I STREET, N.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
202-408-4000